

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
January 14, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

Clerk Treasurer Kelly White Gibson gave the Oath and provided the Swearing in of the following Police Officers:
Jacob T. Olson
Thomas A. Decero
The Town Council congratulated and welcomed the new Police Officers.

Ms. White Gibson read the Proclamation for the 2019 Mitey Mites Boy's Football Team honoring the boys and coaching staff for their accomplishment on becoming State Champions. Mr. Minchuk made a motion to recognize and accept this Proclamation and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. Some discussion followed. The motion was approved by a 7-0 voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher Approval for January 14, 2020. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of December 23, 2019. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a 6-1 abstain (Mr. Bella) voice vote

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Minchuk had no report.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Uzleac had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mr. Pettit had no reports

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report. Mr. Minchuk reported that our Police Department has been very busy with current events that have taken place. Mr. Minchuk wanted to acknowledge the great job they have done working with investigators.

PARKS & RECREATION:

No report.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

No report.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report. Ms. Olrich reported information about the Census 2020 currently she is working with Specialist Susan Hogan for Chicago Census Bureau and also Mrs. Bunnell the Town's Code Enforcer taking information to local churches working together to get the word out about the Census 2020.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mr. Spann had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

Mr. Hardaway had no report.

TOWN IDENTITY & BEAUTIFICATION:

President Mr. Bella said that this will be a new committee added to the agenda and wants to expand efforts in this area to concentrate on this issue and bring ideas for the council for approval and see what we can do moving forward with this new committee. Mr. Bella said he has seen grants in other towns and cities and what they have accomplished and would like to investigate grants and possible funding and start making Merrillville look nicer than it does.

COMMUNITY & RECREATIONAL CENTER:

President Mr. Bella said that this also will be a new committee added to the agenda this is by far the largest project the Town of Merrillville has ever done and would like 3 council members on this committee Mr. Minchuk, Mr. Pettit and Mr. White. Mr. Bella said this will help Ms. Olrich when reporting information about the Community Center and giving residents the correct and most current information.

Mr. Bella said there is an urgent need to appoint our Council Representative to the Lake County Solid Waste Management District a meeting will be held on Thursday.

Mr. Minchuk made a motion to nominate Councilman Mr. White for the position and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 voice vote.

GENERAL ORDERS:

***FIRST READING:* (Discussion and Roll Call)**

None

SECOND READING:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BZA ACTIONS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Minchuk reported that our last storm produce a large amount of rain fall causing residents in his ward problems in a particular area. Mr. Minchuk said he has been in communication with representatives from MCD and Mr. Lake for Stormwater about this situation. Mr. Minchuk said when it rains that's when the infiltration of water is coming and said its coming from MCD lines we need to pin point where this infiltration is coming from. Mr. Minchuk said this is an older subdivision with lots of trees and pipes that have been privately owned and there are a lot of repairs that are going on in that area as well Mr. Minch referred to Mr. Lake for more details.

Mr. Lake shared that there was a study done in 2007 in the Turkey Creek area with regards to the sanitary infrastructure there was a lot of testing done on conditions of the piping with some recommendations recently, Robinson Engineering is now going to be updating the plan for that area and will continue to be proactive right now they have done pipe patching and are working on clearing a lot already. Mr. Lake recommended that residents install a backup water valve to prevent flooding in their basements. Mr. Miuchuk also suggested that residents in the area to get a hold of Mr. Lake at Stormwater so it will be easier to pin point the location of where this infiltration is coming from.

Mr. Olrich said she cleaned up the Revenue Projections for the Recreational Center that had currently been giving to the council for their review from Pamplone Insurance which could have been a typo? Ms. Olrich said she has moved 4salary budgets over to the General Fund per Mr. Pettit suggestion which decreased the expense drastically these expenses have been given to Ms. White Gibson for her review.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the take home car for the Town Engineer and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Environmental Resource Committee Meeting January 16, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Abandoned & Blighted Properties Committee Meeting January 28, 2020 at 10:30 p.m.

Merrillville Redevelopment Committee meeting January 28, 2020 at 6:15 p.m.

Town Council Meeting January 28, 2020 at 6:30 pm

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. White.

Rick Bella, President

Kelly White Gibson, Clerk-Treasurer